

Chief’s Address To The Nation

From Page 1

Department of Interior does not support the Sac and Fox Nation’s Federal Charters which require no increase in federal funding and directly address the Bureau of Indian Affairs initiatives.

With the resignation of Assistant Secretary Larry Echohawk, Secretary Ken Salazar is quoted as stating “With Larry Echo Hawk’s leadership, we have opened a new chapter in our nation to nation relationships with American Indian and Alaska Native tribal governments, accelerated the restoration of tribal homelands, improved safety in tribal communities, resolved century-old water disputes, invested in education, and reached many more milestones that are helping Indian nations pursue the future of their choosing.” The fruits of Mr. Echohawk’s proclaimed leadership are not evident within the Sac and Fox Nation. The book is being closed on the Sac and Fox Nation as we attempt to open our new chapter of pursuing the future of our choosing in exercising the rights granted by our Federal Corporate Charters. The Sac and Fox Nation Tribal jurisdictional area covers three counties in central Oklahoma and is spread over thousands of acres of land. Assimilation through the General Allotment Act was as success to the United States in the land of the Sac and Fox. Pieces of our culture, language, and ways of living have been held together for over a century despite the distance that separates our own people. Successfully exercising the rights granted through the Federal Corporate Charters gives the Sac and Fox Nation the opportunity and tools necessary to “accelerate the restoration of tribal homelands”. It gives the Sac and Fox Nation the ability to strengthen communities, and enrich our cultural resources. The Department of Interior’s refusal to acknowledge and honor the rights granted the Sac and Fox Nation through our Federal Corporate Charters is a direct threat to our right to Self-Determination and our goal to restore the lives of the Sac and Fox people as a community.

Abandoned Railroad Right of Way

For over two decades the Sac and Fox Nation has requested resolution to our issue of restoring abandoned Railroad Right of Ways to the heirs of five original Sac and Fox Allottees. Where is our “milestone”?

The Sac and Fox Nation was told in a letter dated December 3, 1991 from the Office of the Solicitor that their office was in the process of preparing a quiet title action on similar facts referred by the then Anadarko Area Office. This was to be a test case and that it was expected the litigation report on that action would be forwarded to the United States Attorney by the end of January (1992). The letter further states that a favorable ruling on that case will make subsequent actions like it much quicker and may eliminate the need to litigate every case in federal court.

Over twenty years later, the issue continues unresolved.

A letter was written to the Office of the Field Solicitor on May 18, 2011 with regard to the abandoned railroad right-of-ways and land disputes the Sac and Fox Nation has been trying to resolve since 1990. The disputes include five (5) allotments inside the Sac and Fox Nation jurisdiction in which the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe Railroad (ATSF) and the Missouri, Kansas and Texas Railroad (MKT) both abandoned their right-of-ways. Pieces of those right-of-ways continue to be sold. Trespassers have built homes on these properties, harassed individuals leasing the remaining acreage in trust, dumped wasted, destroyed natural resources, and continue to live in trespass. The plea of this letter was that the Office of the Field Solicitor act immediately to clear the title and remove these trespassers. No answer has been received.

Keystone XL Pipeline

Water protection is a fight well known to the Sac and Fox Nation. In January 1996, a federal lawsuit was filed alleging that Tenneco Oil polluted the groundwater and lands of the Sac and Fox Nation through an oil recovery process known as waterflooding. It alleged that saltwater flooding and failure to properly plug and abandon wells contaminated the Sac and Fox Nation’s groundwater and surface lands, destroying vegetation and other natural resources, including the Nation’s pecan groves. The lawsuit further alleged that the Nation’s sole source of drinking water was ruined by Tenneco’s actions. Tenneco denied all allegations. The case was settled in December 1996, approved by the court on June 2, 1997, and a \$3.5 million settlement to restore a permanent supply of clean water to the Sac and Fox Nation was awarded. Now the quality of the groundwater within the Sac and Fox Nation stands to be threatened again with the possible leaks of the Keystone XL Pipeline. Due diligence of Federal policy and regulation is not acceptable to the Sac and Fox Nation in protecting the water quality of the Sac and Fox people. The proposed pump station sits within the same section of land as two original allotments. Already there has been a spill at a North Dakota pump station and a more recent spill at the pump station in Kansas that was reported to have lost 500 barrels. The Sac and Fox Nation demands assurance the lands and aquifers of the Sac and Fox will not be harmed.

Also of great concern to the Sac and Fox Nation is the disturbance of any possible gravesites or artifacts of the pipeline. The people of the Sac and Fox have lived in central Oklahoma for over a century. We stand firm there is a strong possibility that there are many of our ancestors’ remains lying in the path of the pipeline.

Jim Thorpe

To the people of the world, Jim Thorpe

was the “World’s Greatest Athlete”. But to his family and the people of the Sac and Fox Nation he was Wa-Tho-Huk. To the Sac and Fox people he was a father, brother, uncle, grandfather, and a member of our community. His family has fought an emotional and legal battle to have his body returned to his home for a proper burial and ceremonies. The State of Pennsylvania is in violation of NAGPRA and fights only to keep the remains of the “World’s Greatest Athlete”. The selling of his body by his non-Indian wife and the indignity bestowed upon his family and tribe by her actions has resulted in a lengthy legal battle. The people of the Sac and Fox Nation demand the return of the body of Jim Thorpe so that his family and our people can properly lay to rest the young Sac and Fox boy named Wa-Tho-Huck that grew into the World’s Greatest Athlete.

In closing, I would again like to express my gratitude to you and the United Nations for this opportunity to share with you a few matters that are of great importance to the people of the Sac and Fox Nation.

Short Takes

*The new swimming pool opened May 26th and the final inspection of the parking lot was completed May 18th!

*The Culture Center is being constructed and is scheduled to be completed in September of this year!

*Two new members of the Sauk Business Enterprise, Inc. have been appointed: Diana Campbell and Danny Morgan and are joining Chairman Linda Standing.

*On May 14th, Education Director Deb-

bie Hicks and I visited The University of Oklahoma’s University Outreach and discussed with three members of their staff. OU has asked us to put together a team to meet with their representative and discuss priorities for our education programs. We will be discussing matters such as the college program, elementary/secondary programs, and summer camps which were brought up in our meeting with the OU Outreach staff.

*The Nation’s Tribal/State tobacco compact will terminate June 30, 2013. General Council Steven Mullins will be negotiating with the Oklahoma tribes on the compacts. Our Sac & Fox Nation has been asked to host a meeting in late July of all tribal tax departments in the state to start preparing for these compact negotiations.

*I hope you have our Sac & Fox Nation Celebration on your calendars, July 12-15 to enjoy all of the activities that are planned for the weekend.

*The Jim Thorpe Games scheduled for June 10-16 in Oklahoma City will be represented by many of our tribal athletes during these competitions commemorating 100 years ago when the “World’s Greatest Athlete” won his gold medals in Stockholm, Sweden.

Once again I express my gratitude in being allowed to lead our Sac & Fox Nation and it makes me proud to proclaim being your Chief whenever I speak or whenever I am introduced at events across the United States. Aho!

Sincerely,
George Thurman, Principal Chief

from the Office of Environmental Services

Andy Anderson: Environmental Technician

Ahō, nīhkānetike!

It has been a while since we’ve heard about our recycling efforts. They are still going strong I can tell you. Just in the first four months of this year we all have collected almost 12000 lbs of recyclable material. That’s great considering for the whole year last year we collected 27000. If we could continue at this same pace for the whole year we could end up with over 35000 lbs! That’s exciting! I know the numbers may not have the same meaning to some, but when you spend as much time with recycling material as we do here at the Office of Environmental Services department, it’s a great reward to see the numbers climbing as steadily as they have been these last two years.

I would like to encourage you all to keep bringing in your recycling from home and saving the recyclable material you go through here at work. The small steps we are taking now will have a huge impact on future generations. I appreciate all of your help with our efforts.

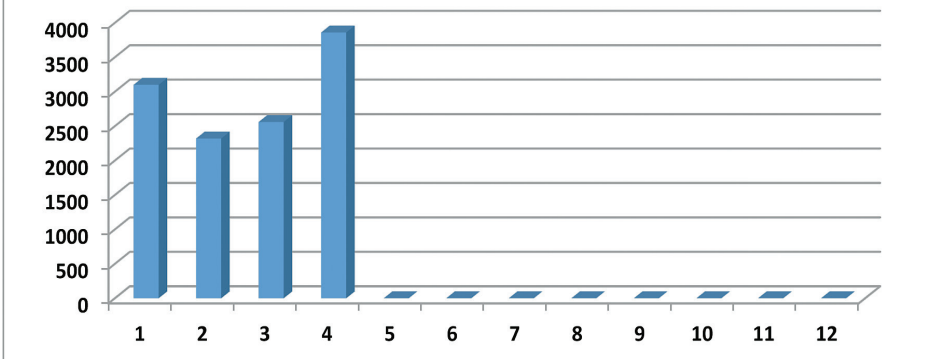
Kewāwiyāmenepwa.

If you have any questions, please contact me at our office:

Office of Environmental Services: (918)968-0046

Andy Anderson: Environmental Technician

2012 monthly recycling totals per lbs



Total lbs as of April 30th: 11,840 lbs

COME JOIN THE FUN!

Call 918-968-0509 or 1-888-835-0435 for Information

JOM FUNDAY

JULY 12, 2012, 9AM TO 1 PM
SAC AND FOX NATION LEARNING CENTER AND GYM



REGISTRATION BEGINS AT 9:00 AM FOR AGES PRE-K THRU 12TH
PARENT/GUARDIAN SIGNATURE REQUIRED FOR ADMISSION

GIVEAWAYS!! PRIZES!! GAMES!
ARTS AND CRAFTS!!!

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Sac and Fox Nation Education Department
Sac and Fox Nation Language Department
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Happy June Birthday Elders!!

Richard Gene Wakole
Oresa June Wilson
Hilda Quintana
David Lee Wakolee
Mattie L. Cloud
Phyllis Marie Williams
Charles William Wallace
Becky Marie Martinez
David D. Hocker
Phyllis Ruth Ramseyer
Harold Eugene Wallace
Roseanna Frances Preston
Dorothy A. Bohannan
William Lloyd Grass
Charlotte Estelle Lane
Shirley J. Garrison
Gary Wayne Hodgens
Leah Jean Walker
Ramona Marie Johnson
Jacqueline Allene Holly
Harold Brown
Raymond L. Pennock
Christine McDonald
Mary Grace Barron”
Harry F. Butler
Charlotte J. Mitchell
George Harjo
Gaylon R. Franklin
Calvin James Grant
Francis J. Garcia

Lamont L. Long
Richard Leroy Pawling
Larry Ernest Eldredge
Sharon Kay Noah
Deborah Lou Smith
Linda Sue Ellis
Sharron McAllister
Francene Wolfe
John Wallace Nelson
Roy Dale Longshore
Clyde Saulsberry
Vincent Lee Bruno
Ronald Arthur Cummins
Constance Joann Pennington
Basil R. Yarbrough
Mary E. Eldredge
Michael S. Trammell
Peter T. Miles
Carole Ann Franklin
Murna Lee Lack
Linus Roubidoux
Mary Sue Britt
Elizabeth June Wolf tongue
Emmett Francis Brown
Wynona McGirt
William Elliott Wilson
Jerry Hodgens Myers
Larry James Ward
Ronald Lee Galloway
Constance Irene Whitlow